

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6609

S E C R E T JIDDA 1679

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, SA, US

SUBJECT: US-SAUDI COOPERATION: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

REF: A) JIDDA 1663; B) JIDDA 1596; C) STATE 64522

1. AT 1215 LOCAL (0915 GMT) APRIL 2, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMED MAS'UD PRESENTED CHARGE WITH SAUDI RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT ON US-SAUDI COOPERATION (REF C). TRANSLATION OF SAUDI LANGUAGE FOLLOWS:

2. "FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO EXPAND AND GIVE MORE CONCRETE EXPRESSION TO COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY, AND TO FURNISH THE KINGDOM WITH WHAT IT NEEDS FOR ITS DEFENSIVE PURPOSES.

3. "HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER.

4. "IN MOVING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONS, BOTH GOVERNMENTS REAFFIRM THEIR HOPE THAT A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE WILL BE REALIZED IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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SO THAT ALL ITS PEOPLES MAY ENJOY STABILITY AND WORK

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY OF THE REGION."

5. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT SAUDI AND U.S. DRAFTS ARE IDENTICAL EXCEPT FOR (A) SAUDI USE OF THE SINGULAR "GOVERNMENT" IN LINE ONE VERSUS OUR USE OF THE PLURAL AND (B) SAUDI DELETION OF LAST SENTENCE PARA ONE (REGARDING DEFENSE) AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY DEFENSE CLAUSE IN THEIR ORIGINAL VERSION (REF B).

6. REGARDING THIS CHANGE, MAS'UD SAID STATEMENT REGARDING DEFENSE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN RIYADH AND SAG PREFERRED TO STICK WITH EARLIER VERSION.

7. MAS'UD SAID SAG AGREEABLE TO ANNOUNCEMENT APRIL 4 AND IF WE CONCURRED WOULD DO SO 1900 HOURS RIYADH TIME (CORRESPONDING TO 12 NOON WASHINGTON TIME). MAS'UD WOULD APPRECIATE USG'S REACTION ASAP SO THAT SAG CAN "PROCEED WITH ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS."

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE FORMULATION OF REMARKS ON DEFENSE WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED LITERALLY FROM THE ARABIC COULD IN ENGLISH BE ADJUSTED SOMEWHAT WITHOUT REQUIRING A FURTHER ROUND OF EXCHANGES. ARABIC TEXT IN QUESTION RUNS QUOTE WA TAZWIID AL MALAKA BI MA TAHTAAJU ILAIHI LI AGHRAADIHAA AL DIFAA'IYAH." WE THINK THIS COULD BE FAIRLY RENDERED "AND MAKE PROVISION FOR THE DEFENSIVE NEEDS OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA." SUCH A FORMULATION WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL ALSO BECAUSE OF THE DUAL SUBJECT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SENTENCE.

9. SAG'S ARABIC VERSION BEING POUCHED TO NEA/ARP.
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